

AAV Member Spotlight: Dr. Guoliang (Gavin) Tang

What was the first bird job you ever had?

After I received my master degree in animal sciences, I joined Beijing Raptor Rescue Center as a wildlife rehabilitator in 2006. We rescued about 400 raptors of 33 species per year.

What is your favorite avian species and why?

My most memorable AAV experience was attending Exoticscon 2018, and presenting my work at the conference. The master classes and presentations were fantastic, which had enabled me to learn a lot of things new about related fields and how I can improve my own daily works in the future. I made many new friends, and met many old friends, allowing me to know more about what other avian vets are doing.

What is your favorite avian species and why?

Definitely the Peregrine Falcon. During my work at Beijing Raptor Rescue Center, I had many wild raptor patients. They were all awesome, especially Peregrine, beauty and beast in one body. Their face mask and appearance are very cute. The flight and prey skills are amazing.

What was the last interesting avian medical or surgical issue you dealt with in your work?

I would say a fracture case. The owner had 3 parrots, including a sulphur-crested cockatoo, an African grey, and a rainbow lorikeet. According to the owner, the two big birds were suspected to be attacked by a raptor, and had some obvious wounds, which were treated by another doctor briefly immediately. But 3 weeks later, the rainbow lorikeet was found to be lame, and a wing dropped. The owner came to me. After examination and X-ray, I found three fractures, in R-tibia, R-femur, L-Metacarpal bones. The femur fracture was an old one with callus forming, but malformation. That may have happen during the raptor attack. I did both in-pin and external fixation for this 90g tiny bird including fixing the malformed callus. After 21 days, all bones had healed perfectly.

Best benefits of AAV membership?

All the educational materials are terrific and useful. I have read all the E-journals sent to me. I translated some brochure into Chinese, and used them as education material for my clients.

If you had not chosen your present career, what would you be doing?

I would probably be working in a wildlife rescue center, or running a wildlife rescue center by myself.

What was your favorite class or activity in vet school/vet tech school/college?

My answer is Internal Medicine, which is very difficult. But I think the more complicated the case is, the sense of achievement is bigger after the problem is solved.



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